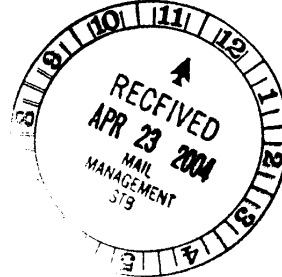


THE GARDEN CITY WESTERN RAILWAY, INC.
1318 SOUTH JOHANSON ROAD • PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61607 • (309) 697-1400

210669

April 16, 2004

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423



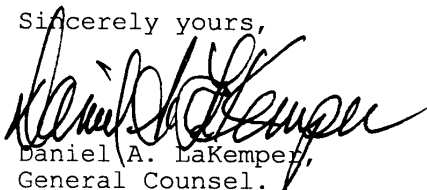
RE: BNSF - Abandonment Exemption - Hamilton & Merrick Co., Neb.
Docket No. AB-6-408X

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed, for filing, are an original and ten copies of The Garden City Western Railway's Petition to Reopen/Extend Deadline for OFA in the above-referenced Abandonment. Also enclosed is an extra copy, which I ask that you file-stamp and return to me at the above address.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,


Daniel A. LaKemper,
General Counsel.

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

APR 23 2004

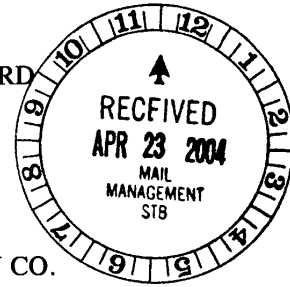
Part of
Public Record

Enclosures.

210669

BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB-6-408X



BURLINGTON NORTHERN & SANTA FE RAILWAY CO.

ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION
HAMILTON and MERRICK COUNTIES, NEBRASKA

PETITION TO REOPEN

AND EXTEND DEADLINE FOR MAKING OFFERS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANANCE

Daniel A. LaKemper, Esq.
General Counsel
The Garden City Western Railway, Inc.
1318 S. Johanson Road
Peoria, Illinois 61607
Tel.: (309) 697-1400
Fax: (309) 697-8486

Dated: April 16, 2004.

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
APR 23 2004
Part of
Public Record

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB-6-408X

ABANDONMENT OF A LINE OF RAILROAD
BETWEEN AURORA AND CENTRAL CITY, NEBRASKA

PETITION TO REOPEN
AND EXTEND DEADLINE FOR MAKING OFFER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

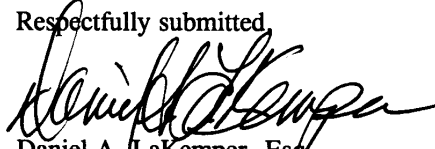
NOW COMES The Garden City Western Railway, Inc. ("GCW") and hereby respectfully requests that the Board reopen this proceeding and extend the deadline for making an Offer of Financial Assistance, an additional thirty (30) days, and in support thereof, states as follows:

1. On March 10, 2004, GCW filed a Notice of Intent to make an Offer of Financial Assistance in this proceeding, and requested that the applicant, Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway ("BNSF") provide the information set forth in 49 CFR 1152.27 (a) including the minimum purchase price required to acquire the line. GCW also requested that BNSF provide its most recent report on the physical condition of the involved line and traffic, revenue and other data necessary to determine BNSF's estimate of net liquidation value of the line together with supporting data reflecting available real estate appraisal, assessments of the quality and the quantity of track material in the line and removal cost estimate used to obtain the net liquidation value.

2. To date, GCW has not received any of this information.
3. GCW did not make any further filings with the Board prior to this date, because we did not want to unnecessarily delay this proceeding, or increase the paperwork burden on the Board or BNSF.
4. Now, however, a Trail Use Request has been filed, and BNSF has advised GCW that they do not have the requested information, and will not be able to provide it for at least another couple weeks.
5. Granting this Request will not, therefore, delay this proceeding unnecessarily, and GCW should not be penalized for attempting to resolve this matter without Board action.

WHEREFORE, GCW respectfully requests that the Board reopen this Proceeding and extend the period for submitting offers of financial assistance for an additional 30 days in order to provide BNSF with time to provide the requested information, and GCW with an adequate opportunity to review and analyze the material provided by BNSF. This will not unfairly prejudice the interests of BNSF or any other party.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel A. LaKemper, Esq.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

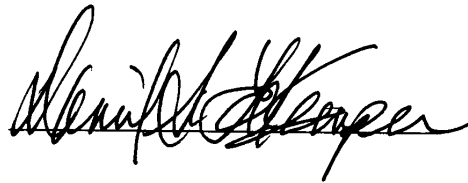
I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing instrument was served by United States Mail, first class, postage fully pre-paid, this 16th. day of March, 2004 upon:

Michael Smith
Freeborn & Peters
311 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3000
Chicago, Illinois 60606

James H. Gallegos
Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway Co.
2500 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2828

Ross Greathouse
Nebraska Trails Foundation, Inc.
3901 S. 217th. St.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502-4649

Brian Nettles
Freeborn & Peters
311 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3000
Chicago, Illinois 60606

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel A. LaKemper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" being the most prominent.

Daniel A. LaKemper
General Counsel
The Garden City Western Railway, Inc.
1318 S. Johanson Road
Peoria, Illinois 61607
Tel.: (309) 697-1400